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BOOK NOTICES.

(N.B.—It is requested that works submitted for review be addressed to the EDITOR.)

The English Lakes. With Bathymetrical Maps and Illustrations. By Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc., F.R.S.E. 8vo. London, 1895.

(From "The Geographical Journal" for July and August, 1895.)

Dr. Mill's paper was read before the Royal Geographical Society in June, 1894, and an abstract, accompanied by a discussion, appeared in the *Geographical Journal* for September, 1894.*

The lakes surveyed lie within a circle of 30 miles in diameter, in the famous Lake District of north-western England. Geographically, the district may be described as an elevated land, highest in the centre and furrowed by a series of valleys running from the centre toward the circumference, like the spokes of a wheel. Most of the valleys contain long, narrow lakes, differing in type from the small, round mountain tarns of the district. Until Dr. Mill's survey was undertaken, there had been no attempt to construct definite maps of the basins. Some of the results obtained were printed in tabular form in the BULLETIN of September 30, 1894.†

The largest lakes, Windermere and Ullswater, are divided into distinct basins. In the former, the deep and wide upper part is separated by the island-shoal off Bowness from the narrower and more shallow lower basin; while in Ullswater each of the three reaches of the lake is marked off by a bar. Three of the lakes, Wastwater, Windermere and Coniston, descend below sea-level.

Dr. Mill's paper, which is of permanent value, is illustrated by a general map of the District, on a scale of 3 miles to an inch, 7 other maps on a scale of 2 inches to a mile, and 20 illustrations, mostly from photographs. Each map is accompanied by sections, and shows, besides the lake surroundings, the land contours from the Ordnance Survey. All the maps are carefully tinted.

The Discovery of Australia. A Critical, Documentary and Historic Investigation concerning the Priority of Discovery in Australasia by Europeans before the arrival of Lieut. James Cook, in the "Endeavour," in the year 1770. With Illustrations, Charts, Maps,

* Not 1895, as the Preface reads.

† Journal of the American Geographical Society, Vol. XXVI, p. 394.

Diagrams, etc., Copious Notes, References, Geographical Index and Index to Names. By George Collingridge, Member of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Sydney, New South Wales, Hon. Corresp. Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Melbourne, Victoria, etc., etc., etc., Founder and First Vice-President of the Art Society of New South Wales, Sydney. 4to. Sydney, 1895.

Mr. Collingridge has brought together in this handsome volume practically all the early notices of Australia. He begins with the Chaldean conception of the earth and the Greek traditions, of which he cites the one preserved by Ælian, as translated by Fleming, in 1576, and quoted by Mr. R. H. Major:*

Theopompus declareth that Midas the Phrygian and Selenus were knit in familiaritie and acquaintance. This Selenus was the sonne of a nymphe inferiour to the gods in condition and degree, but superiour to men concerning mortalytie and death. These twaine mingled communication of sundrye thinges. At length, in processe of talke, Selenus tolde Midas of certaine ilandes, named Europia, Asia, and Libia, which the ocean sea circumscribeth and compasseth round about; and that without this worlde there is a continent or parcell of dry lande, which in greatnesse (as hee reported) was infinite and unmeasurable; that it nourished and maintained, by the benefite of the greene medowes and pasture plots, sundrye bigge and mighty beastes; that the men which inhabite the same climate exceede the stature of us twise, and yet the length of there life is not equall to ours; that there be many and divers great citties, manyfold orders and trades of living; that their lawes, statutes, and ordinances, are different, or rather clean contrary to ours. Such and lyke thinges dyd he rehearse.

The lines next quoted from Manilius refer to Australia as those from Seneca do to America. Mr. Collingridge just mentions Ptolemy and Strabo, and has no hesitation in deciding that Marco Polo considered *Java and Australia as one*, and called it Java Major.

With the fifteenth century and the maps the field widens, and Mr. Collingridge finds firmer ground, though he accepts Galvano's report of the map brought to Lisbon from Venice in 1428 by Dom Pedro of Portugal.† The notices and delineations, more or less definite, of Australia and the neighboring islands, are followed from year to year with patience and assiduity to this result:

In conclusion, we feel inclined to say with Alexander Dalrymple that "there is nothing new under the sun," and that Australia must have been known from the remotest antiquity.

* Early Voyages to Terra Australis, now called Australia: etc., etc. Edited, with an Introduction, by R. H. Major, Esq., F.S.A. 8vo. (*Introduction, p. iii.*) London (Hakluyt Society), 1859.

† The Discoveries of the World, etc., etc., by Antonio Galvano, etc. Corrected, etc., by Richard Hakluyt (1601). 8vo (p. 67). London, Hakluyt Society, 1862.

Ecclesiastes seems to have anticipated Dalrymple, and it is far from likely that Australia was known to the remotest antiquity. Midas and Manilius do not meet the requirements of the case. Neither are the indications in the mediæval maps conclusive. Important as they are, it is easy to overestimate their importance where they designate regions as yet unvisited by Europeans.

It is probable, as Mr. Major has shown, that the Portuguese reached Australia in the sixteenth century; but the real discovery, in the usual sense of the word, dates from the year 1606, when Torres sailed through the strait that bears his name, and the Dutch landed at Cape York.

The numerous reproductions of maps in the volume are very well done.

The Land of the Nile Springs, being Chiefly An Account of how we fought Kabarega. By Colonel Sir Henry Colvile, K. C. M. G., C. B., Grenadier Guards. Illustrated by Mr. J. Burrell-Smith and Mr. Twidle from Sketches by the Author and Major Thruston and from photographs by the Author. 8vo. Edward Arnold, London and New York, 1895.

Col. Colvile says in his preface that he wrote, some years ago, an official history of a campaign, and that he has contributed a good deal to Blue Book Literature. He adds:

I trust that the habits acquired during these experiences may be considered a sufficient excuse for any items of useful information that I may have allowed to slip into the following pages.

It is easy to forgive imaginary sins, but there is no excuse for this book. Col. Colvile's line of march was from Mombasa to the Victoria Nyanza and the Albert Nyanza, and detached expeditions were sent off to the right and to the left. Kabarega kept himself pretty well out of harm's way, after setting his capital on fire before the enemy reached it. The native forces, on both sides, were shy of fighting, the real work being done by the Sudanese, who make good soldiers.

Two maps and a number of fair illustrations enliven this uninteresting story.

Expedición Científica al Popocatepetl. José G. Aguilera y Ezequiel Ordoñez, geólogos de la Comisión Geológica Mexicana. 8vo. México, 1895.

The report of this expedition is dated October, 1894. It begins with a brief description of the country around the City of Mexico